

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 9:10**.
- B. This is the second in the three-part series on giving. The three lessons are:
 - 1. Why Give.
 - 2. How to Give.
 - 3. Dividends Received from Giving.
- C. God has specified how to give back unto Him. These guidelines are to be followed in our acceptable service of worship.

I. **ONE: GIVE NOT FOR VAIN GLORY.**

- A. The glory we receive should not come from men but from God (Mt. 6:1-4).
- B. Let us not be like the Pharisees in our giving.

II. **TWO: GIVE NOT GRUDGINGLY.**

- A. Scripture text: 2Corinthians 9:7.
- B. No one can be told how much to give. If that were so he would resent having to give that certain amount. Pressure tactics by brethren should not be used.

III. **THREE: GIVE NOT WITHOUT LOVE.**

- A. Love must be part of our gift. If not, then our gift is worthless of any benefit (1Cor. 13:3).
- B. Giving is a selfless act and so is loving. To be selfish and then give is a hypocritical act.

IV. **FOUR: GIVE NOT WHILE ESTRANGED FROM ANOTHER.**

- A. Jesus said we are to leave our gift at the altar, make—up with our brother and then go back to give (Mt. 5:23-24).
- B. Giving is then to be done with a clear conscience towards God and man.

V. **FIVE: WE ARE TO GIVE SYSTEMATICALLY.**

- A. To help out the needy saints, Paul asked that on a regular basis the Xians in Corinth set aside an amount of money, to be set-aside, with the total amount to be collected (given) later (1Cor. 16:1-2).
- B. We today, in the churches of Christ, follow this example, but also realize that any gift given to the church on any other day of the week is just as acceptable.

VI. **SIX: WE ARE TO GIVE LIBERALLY.**

- A. We are not to give a tenth, as was true under the OT. We are to give from our means, as we have been prospered.
- B. Liberal giving is deciding the amount by ourselves in proportion to our blessings (Lk. 6:38).

VII. **SEVEN: WE ARE TO GIVE SACRIFICALLY.**

- A. Since living the Xian life is a daily sacrifice, (Rom. 12:1-2) our giving must also be that. If we can easily afford to give what we are giving then it is not a sacrifice.
- B. We must always weigh our personal expenses and pay whom we owe, but we also owe God far more than we could ever repay.
- C. Too many times we give to the church like we give to the heart fund (as little as possible to soothe a guilty conscience for not giving more).

VIII. EIGHT: WE ARE TO GIVE PURPOSEFULLY.

- A. Scripture text: 2Corinthians 9:7.
- B. Each person should, as much as possible, know what expenses they have and how to budget their money.
- C. Part of that budget is giving to the church. We are careful sometimes as to where are money goes to other things, but regrettably have no “purpose” in giving to the church.

IX. NINE: GIVE SECRETLY, BUT NOT AS A COVER TO COVETOUSNESS.

- A. To receive the greatest blessing in giving we give secretly so that the heavenly Father can reward in private (Mt. 6:3-4).
- B. But this secret giving must not be used as a way to be covetous in giving. Paul instructed the church to withdraw from a covetous man (1Cor. 5:11). Strong words.
- C. I believe the elders have a right to know what each one gives and to instruct those whom might be coveting their money from the church.

X. TEN: GIVE ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY.

- A. It is not that everyone should give of equal amount, but of equal sacrifice (Mk. 12:41-44).
- B. Materialism, covetousness, and sacrifice are not an amount, but an attitude.
- C. Also, in a congregational sense 20% of the membership should not give 90% of the contribution, when 90% of the congregation can give 90% of the contribution.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Tonight’s lesson has been to give some scriptural guidelines, and practical advice on how to give.
- B. It is my prayer, that this lesson will better enable you to know what you need to do, in order to give to God in a more acceptable way.
- C. The last lesson in this series is entitled, “Dividends Received from Giving.”
- D. The greatest giver is God. He gave us Jesus Christ.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.